

Application No. 10/064,791
Docket No. 13DV-13975
Amendment dated August 4, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 5, 2005

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner reviewed claims 26-32 and 34-38 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that a rejection under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting was maintained against all the claims in view of commonly-assigned U.S. Patent No. 6,808,799 to Darolia et al. (Darolia), and a rejection of claims 26-30 and 32 was maintained under 35 USC §102 in view of Japanese Kokai Patent Application No. 2-301550 to Harada. In response, Applicants have amended the claims as set forth above. More particularly:

Independent claim 26 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of its dependent claim 31 (hereby canceled without prejudice to Applicants), which was not rejected as being unpatentable over Harada.

Dependent claim 28 has been amended to correct a clerical error.

Applicants believe that the above amendments do not present new matter. Applicants further believe that the amendments strictly comply with 37 CFR §1.116(a) as being limited to reducing and simplifying the issues remaining in the examination of Applicants' application, namely, the cancellation of a dependent claim and incorporation of its subject matter into its parent claim, and correcting a clerical error. Consequently, Applicants believe that the above amendments do not raise new issues that would require further

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consideration and/or search by the Examiner, and place the claims in better condition for appeal. MPEP §714.13.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of remaining claims 26-30, 32, and 34-38 are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Double Patenting Rejection

The rejection of remaining claims 26-30, 32, and 34-38 under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting is believed to be overcome in view of the attached Terminal Disclaimer.

Rejections under 35 USC §102

The rejection of independent claim 26 and its remaining dependent claims 27-30 and 32 under 35 USC §102 in view of Harada is believed to be overcome in view of the incorporation into claim 26 of all limitations of its dependent claim 31, which was not rejected in view of Harada.

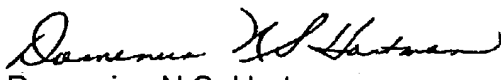
Closing

Applicants respectfully request that their patent application be given favorable reconsideration. Should the Examiner have any questions with

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respect to any matter now of record, Applicants' representative may be
reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 4, 2005
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Attachment: Terminal Disclaimer; Fee Transmittal form